i	2	3	4
11	Kerala	7422	2/97
12	Madhya Pradesh	57779	2/97
13	Maharashtra	36439	3/97
14	Manipur	668	3/97
15	Meghalaya	USO	9/96
16	Mizoram	9S	8/97
17	Nagaland	1640	5/97
13	Orissa	44984	1/97
19	Punjab	1493	3/97
20	Rajasthan	10315	3/97
21	Sikkim	107	2^97
22	Tamil Nadu	46115	1/97
23	Tripura	682	3/97
24	Uttar Pradesh	76967	3/97
25	West Bengal	61185	12/97
26	A & N Islands	151	3/97
27	Chandigarh	479	3/97
28	D & N Haveli	264	3/97
29	Daman & Diu	197	6/97
30	Delhi	9802	2/97
31	Lakshadweep	34	3/97
32	Pondicherry	398	3/97
	Total	557393	

Trade Deficit

*539. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Wilt the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is sharp increase in the country's trade deficit;

(b) if so, the percentage of rise in the trade deficit since January, 1997;

(c) the major causes for the phenomi-nal rise in the trade deficit; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose, to narrow down the trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) As per the PGCI&S data, trade deficit in 1996-97 (Provisional) is placed at around US $ 5442 million which is higher than the deficit of US $ 4539 million in the previous vear.

(b) As per DGCI&S data (Provisional), trade deficit during April-January 1996-97 was US $ 4289 million which has since gone upto US $ 5442 million in April-March 1996-97, a rise of 26.9%.

(c) Trade deficit is the excess of imports over exports. While imports are related to the needs of the economy, exports depend *inter alia* on various factors such as international market conditions, tariffs and non-tariff barriers, domestic infrastructure, cost of export credit, policy framework etc.

(b) The key of reducing trade defscit lies in accelerated export growth. Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government through policy and promotional schemes. These include simplification of Export Import Policy procedures for providing an export friendly environment, involvement of

States in export and interaction with industry, trade and other export promotional institutions for initiation of appropriate measures from time to time.

Export of Tea of Russian Federation

*540. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India exports tea to Russian Federation;

(b) if so, the details of quantity Of exported tea to these countries during the last three years;

(c) whether Russia has very recently imposed double import duty on tea:

(d) if so, whether this step has adversely affected Indian exports in tea; and

(e) if so, steps contemplated to neutralise the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMA1AH): (a) to (e) Export of tea to Russia during the last three years have been as follows:--

(Oty. Mn. Kg)
(Value Rs. in crore)

Years	Exports Qty.	Value
1994-95	41.06	271.94
1995-96	68.05	483.80
1996-97 (April-Jan.)	25.41	198.51

Source: Tea Board

Under a new resolution enacted by the Government of Russia and announced by Russian State Customs Committee on 30.4.97, Customs Duty on import of all packet teas (both black and green) will be increased from existing rate of 10% to 20% with effect from 1st June, 1997.

Proposed increase in. customs duty is likely to affect packet tea imports into Russia from major exporting countries including India.

Tea Board in association with exporters to Russia, is. in touch with Russian tea buyers to ascertain extent of impact of new import duty structure and formulate appropriate steps to safeguard interests of Indian tea exporters.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Complaints against private operators of aeroplanes

3959. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private operators Of aeroplane is allowed to carry passenger oh remuneration purpose;

(b) whether such kind of operations have been carried out in Delhi for which the comphints were made;

(c) whether Karson Aviation planes of Delhi are used for remuneration purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM, IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir. In accordance with Civil Aviation Requirements, a private category aircraft cannot be used for -hire or reward or remuneration of any kind whatsoever.

(b) to (d) A complaint was received by the DGCA alleging that the private aircraft owned by M/s Karson Aviation was beign used for remuneration. Although the owner has categorically denied having used the aircraft for any commercial purpose, DGCA, which is the regulatory authority for monitoring the use of such